

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /118 W

----- 088790

R 021150Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1223

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFIS,PLOS,NO

SUBJ: STATUS REPORT-200MILE NORWEGIAN FISHING LIMIT

REF: OSLO 405 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NORWAY HOPES TO BEGIN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS

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ON A 200-MILE/FISHING LIMIT SHORTLY AFTER CONCLUSION OF

UPCOMING LOS CONFERENCE. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE BASED ON PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE NEARLY COMPLETED. THEY WILL FOCUS ON AREA NORTH OF 62ND PARALLEL AND ON UK, USSR, EAST AND WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, AND POLAND. NORWAY HOPES EEC MEMBERS WILL AGREE TO TALKS SOON, ESPECIALLY SINCE TALKS WITH BLOC TARGET COUNTRIES ARE PROCEEDING AND INABILITY TO TALK TO ALLIES WHETHER INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH EEC CREATES UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION.

END SUMMARY

1. NORWAY HOPES TO SEND OUT TO AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS BEFORE THE LOS CONFERENCE OPENING MARCH 15, DRAFT PRELIMINARY AGREEMENTS FOR FISHING (OR THE PHASING OUT OF FISHING) IN A NORWEGIAN 200-MILE FISHING ZONE. THE DRAFTS WILL BE REVISED IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS AT THE LOS CONFERENCE AND DISCUSSED IN AN INTENSIVE ROUND OF TALKS FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE.

2. HELGE VENDENES, LOS MINISTER EVENSEN'S DEPUTY, TOLD E/C COUNSELOR THAT THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF THESE TALKS WOULD BE THE AREA NORTH OF THE 62ND PARALLEL. SOUTH OF THE 62ND PARALLEL, I.E., IN THE NORTH SEA, NORWAY WILL ADOPT A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE. RESTRICTING FOREIGN FISHING NORTH OF THE 62ND PARALLEL IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN BECAUSE OF INCREASED FOREIGN FISHING IN THIS AREA AS FISHING IN THE NORWEST ATLANTIC AND ELSEWHERE HAD BEEN RESTRICTED. SOUTH OF THE 62ND PARALLEL NORWAY DOES MORE FISHING OUTSIDE A 200-MILE ZONE THAN WITHIN IT.

3. PRINCIPAL TARGET COUNTRIES FOR THE AREA NORTH OF THE 62ND PARALLEL WILL BE THE UK AND THE USSR, WITH RECIPROCAL FISHING AGREEMENTS WILL BE SOUGHT, AND POLAND, WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, AND EAST GERMANY WHICH HAVE FISHED IN THE AREA FOR SOME TIME. (SOME CONSIDERATION MAY ALSO BE GIVEN TO PORTUGAL FOR POLITICAL REASONS--SEE SEPTTEL.) VENDENES SAID THAT NORWAY IS CONTEMPLATING GIVING THE LATTER FOUR COUNTRIES RIGHTS IN AN OUTER 150-MILES ZONE WHICH WOULD BE PHASED OUT IN ABOUT THREE YEARS, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY ALSO TO GIVE THEM

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SOME TEMPORARY BUT MORE LIMITED RIGHTS IN AN INNER 50-MILE ZONE. ANY RIGHTS GIVEN PORTUGAL WOULD BE LESS EXTENSIVE THAN THOSE GIVEN OTHERS.

4. VENDENES TOLD E/C COUNSELOR IN CONFIDENCE THAT NORWAY HAS ALREADY GIVEN BRITISH A PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGREEMENT ON FISHING IN A 200-MILE NORWEGIAN FISHING ZONE. AGREEMENT WAS ONE-SIDED SINCE IT ONLY COVERED FISHING IN NORWEGIAN

WATERS AND NOT FISHING IN BRITISH WATERS. THIS WAS DONE BECAUSE OF BRITISH POSITION VIS-A-VIS COMMON EEC FISHING POLICY. NORWAY WAS LIKELY TO EXTEND ITS ZONE IN EARLY 1977 BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC PRESSURES AND TO PROTECT STOCKS AGAINST INCREASED FISHING FROM OTHERS. BRITISH HAD LITTLE TO GAIN FROM EXTENSION AS LONG AS OTHER EEC COUNTRIES COULD FISH IN WATERS BEYOND ITS TERRITORIAL SEA. BRITISH HAVE TOLD NORWEGIANS THEY WOULD NOT FOR THE MOMENT ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEM EVEN ON BASIS OF NORWEGIAN DRAFT AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF ONGOING EEC CONSIDERATION OF A COMMON FISHING POLICY. BRITISH DID NOT, HOWEVER, FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING LOS CONFERENCE, AND EVENSEN DID HAVE TALKS WITH DAVID ENNALS IN LONDON AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

5. VENDENES SAID NORWAY WAS ALSO RENEGOTIATING ITS CURRENT NORTH SEA FISHING AGREEMENT WITH SWEDEN. THE REVISED AGREEMENT WILL BE BASED ON A NORWEGIAN 200-MILE FISHING LIMIT AND 12-MILE TERRITOTIAL SEA AND WILL PERMIT SWEDISH FISHING FURTHER WESTWARD IN THE NORTH SEA THAN PRESENT AGREEMENT. VENDENES COMMENTED THAT SWEDEN CONSIDERED ITSELF A GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATE IN LOS MATTERS AND THAT SWEDISH ACCEPTANCE OF A 200-MILE NORWEGIAN FISHING ZONE SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND TO NORWAY IF IT HAD TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY.

6. VENDENES ASSERTED THAT NORWAY STILL PREFERRED TO TALK TO INDIVIDUAL EEC MEMBER COUNTRIES ABOUT FISHING, BUT WAS PERFECTLY PREPARED TO TALK TO EEC ITSELF, IF THAT WAS WHAT WAS WANTED. HE CLAIMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RECENT DETERIORATION IN CLIMATE OF NORWEGIAN-EEC FISHING RELATIONS, THAT EEC INFORMED LONG AGO ABOUT NORWEGIAN INTENTIONS TO INTRODUCE 200-MILE FISHING ZONES BY EARLY 1977, AND THAT

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EEC UNDERSTOOD NEED TO DO THIS BEFORE STOCKS FURTHER JEOPARADIZED DURING WINTER FISHING SEASON NEXT YEAR. HE HOPED THAT SOME WAY WOULD BE FOUND FOR NORWAY TO TALK TO EEC OR EEC MEMBER COUNTRIES SOON. TALKS WERE PROCEEDING WITH POLAND, EAST GERMANY, AND THE USSR, GIVING UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION THAT NORWAY FOUND IT EASIER TO DEAL WITH THE EASTERN EUROPEANS THAN WITH ITS WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES.

7. THE FOLLOWING TALKS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED: MARCH 2-3- SPAIN; MARCH 2-3-USSR; MARCH 11-12-GDR; 13 OF MARCH- POLAND; RIGHT AFTER LOS CONFERENCE-USSR. THE MARCH TALKS WITH SPAIN WILL FOLLOW PATTERN OF TALKS WITH PORTUGAL, ALTHOUGH NO HOPE OF TEMPORARY FISHING RIGHTS WILL BE HELD OUT. THE MARCH TALKS WITH THE USSR

WILL FOCUS MOSTLY ON LOS MATTERS AND WILL BE WITH LEADERS
OF SOVIET LOS DELEGATION. (EMBASSY WILL REPORT SEPARATELY.)
THE SOVIET FISHING MINISTER ISHKOF WHO ASKED EVENSEN
TO MOSCOW SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. EVENSEN WILL RETURN TO
OSLO FOR THE TALKS WITH POLAND.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, PROGRESS REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT, FISHING LIMITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OSLO01040
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760079-0392
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603104/aaaadnqx.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OSLO 405
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS REPORT-200MILE NORWEGIAN FISHING LIMIT
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006